

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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Approved For Release 2004/11/30 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100140065-2

PAGES

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CLASSIFICATION

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CIA/OCI/WH2WH

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DATE-TIME GROUP

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SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

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ITEM NO: WH-4

DATE: 24 JULY 1974

SUBJECT: SOUTH VIETNAM--SITUATION IN MILITARY REGION 1

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[REDACTED] MILITARY REGION 1 COMMANDER

GENERAL TROUP BELIEVES THE PRESENT MILITARY SITUATION IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE IS BECOMING CRITICAL, AND COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE MORTARED THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL AT HOI AN AND HAVE CONDUCTED MORTAR AND GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST THE DISTRICT CAPITALS OF DUC DUC AND DUY XUYEN AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AROUND THEM. BATTLE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE ROUTED SEVERAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THOSE AREAS AND THAT AT LEAST DUC DUC MAY FALL SOON.

TROUP IS BRINGING IN REINFORCEMENTS FROM HIS 1ST AND 2ND INFANTRY DIVISIONS TO AID THE 3RD DIVISION, WHICH HAS DONE MOST OF THE FIGHTING SO FAR. BESIDES THESE DIVISIONS, TROUP

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CAN ALSO CALL ON THE MARINE AND AIRBORNE DIVISIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY RATED THE BEST COMBAT UNITS IN THE COUNTRY.

TROUNG, WHO IS THE GOVERNMENT'S MOST CAPABLE COMMANDER, IS NOT PRONE TO REACT TO COMMUNIST INITIATIVES UNTIL HE IS CERTAIN OF THEIR STRATEGY AND WHERE THEY MOST LIKELY WILL CONCENTRATE THEIR ATTACKS. HE CAN BE EXPECTED TO FIELD HIS FORCES EFFECTIVELY. IN VIEW OF HIS HIGH STANDING WITH PRESIDENT THIEU, HE IS LIKELY TO GET WHATEVER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT HE CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO CONTAIN THE COMMUNIST ATTACK.

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